

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SIG-01 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 SS-15 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 EB-08 COME-00 AGRE-00
INT-05 DLOS-09 L-03 FMC-01 JUSE-00 IO-13 CG-00
DOTE-00 INRE-00 /108 R

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APPROVED BY OES/OFA/FA:LLSNEAD
EUR/WE - B. MCKINLEY
COMM/NMFS - D. REIFSNYDER
-----081356 172316Z /61

O P 172234Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042963

USEEC, MEXICO FOR REGIONAL FISHATT

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: EFIS

SUBJECT: CLOSURE OF ITALIAN FISHING IN US FISHERY
CONSERVATION ZONE

1. NORTHEAST REGIONAL FISHERIES DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MARINE

FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), CLOSED ALL ITALIAN FISHING AS OF MIDNIGHT, EST, FEBRUARY 16. ITALY HAD EXCEEDED BY-CATCH QUOTAS FOR SILVER HAKE AS OF FEBRUARY 4, BASED ON VESSEL OBSERVERS AND COAST GUARD COUNTS. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT ITALIAN VESSEL CAPTAINS HAVE UNDER-REPORTED CATCHES TO THEIR AGENT IN NEW YORK.

2. NMFS SENT LETTER TO GOI COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, SERAFINI DATED FEBRUARY 2, INDICATING THAT ITALY HAD CAUGHT HALF OF SILVER HAKE AND BUTTERFISH ALLOCATIONS AS OF JANUARY 21. SERAFINI SAYS THAT ROME MINISTRY OF FISHERIES BEGAN REVIEW OF CATCH DATA UPON RECEIPT OF LETTER.

3. NMFS REGIONAL OFFICE INFORMED ITS WASHINGTON, D.C. HEADQUARTERS ON FEBRUARY 15, WHICH THEN INFORMED SERAFINI AND EEC MISSION, THAT ITALY HAD EXCEEDED BYCATCH AND WAS THEREFORE CLOSED. 24 HOURS GRACE PERIOD WAS GRANTED BY NMFS REGIONAL DIRECTOR, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT HAVE TO DO SO UNDER LAW.

4. SERAFINI MET WITH OCEANS AND FISHERIES AFFAIRS AMB. NEGROPONTE, AND WITH DIRECTOR OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ROLAND SMITH AT NMFS. HE ASKED BOTH DEPTS IF 1) THE 11 ITALIAN VESSELS COULD CONTINUE FISHING UNTIL FIGURES WERE RECEIVED FROM ROME, AND 2) IF ONLY THOSE VESSELS WHICH EXCEEDED QUOTA COULD BE "PUNISHED". COMMERCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHICH HAS FINAL DECISION, SUGGESTED ITALIAN VESSELS SAIL TO NEW YORK UNTIL DISCREPENCY BETWEEN CATCH FIGURES RESOLVED. BYCATCH RESTRICTIONS WOULD APPLY AGAINST ENTIRE FLEET.

5. SERAFINI RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM ROME ON FEBRUARY 17 THAT 80 TONS OF SILVER HAKE -- 60 TONS ABOVE ALLOCATION HAD BEEN TAKEN. ITALIAN FLEET IS PRESUMABLY LEAVING AREA.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM DEPT OF REACTION IN ITALY AND EEC. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSERVATION, CLOSURE OF OFFICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE042963
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: SEJELLEY:MAF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780074-1022
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780239/aaaabgvx.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e2fb07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3553161
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLOSURE OF ITALIAN FISHING IN US FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE
TAGS: EFIS, IT
To: ROME BRUSSELS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e2fb07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014